TIME OF THE MEETINGS OF THE HOUSE.

PRESIDENT: I think it will be agreed that it will be inconvenient to honourable members to assemble, according to the new time, at 11 o' clock, and as we have advanced the time—I don't want to make a change in the Rules and conventions. we may commence our business an hour later and sit an hour longer.

The House agreed to meet at 12 Noon.

MOTION OF WELCOME TO THE DEWAN-PRESIDENT.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN: I move: "This House has great pleasure in welcoming Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar back to the State and offers him the hearty co-operation of the entire people of the State in the discharge of his onerous duties during the difficult times ahead of us."

Sir, this motion is a natural consequence of the motion that was unanimously passed by this House on the eve of your temporary departure from the State to assume charge of your office in the Viceroy's Executive Council. This House had then wished you godspeed and prayed for your early return. As the result of the fervent prayer of the people of this country you have returned perhaps sooner than many expected. This House is meeting for the first time after your return and it is only in the fitness of things that this House records its sense of joy at your resuming the administrative reins of this country again.

Sir, the times we are passing through in this country and elsewhere in India are difficult and bad.

The problem that demands our immediate attention is with respect to the production of food-stuffs and their collection and distribution, and I am sure every individual in this country will co-operate, and render all assistance to the Government in this matter. Sir, some of us have our differences of opinion about the measures adopted by the Government with respect to the collection and distribution of food-stuffs. Some of us have our differences of opinion with respect to the policy adopted by the Government in regard to the appointments in Government Service of persons belonging to communities inadequately represented in Public Service. But all of us are agreed that this is not the time for ventilating those grievances. Thousands of people are starving. Co-operation, as I said, of the people and the Government is needed for the collection of food-stuffs from surplus areas and their distribution in the deficit areas and I am sure, Sir, your Government will get the utmost co-operation of the people in this matter.

Another matter for which the Government desire the co-operation and support of the people is, as you have said this morning, the war effort. We know, Sir, as a matter of fact—and I am sure the British Government also knows—that in the matter of war propaganda and recruitment, this country has reached the high water mark of

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